

**REMARKS**

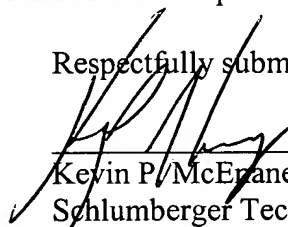
Claims 1-17 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 18-34 have been added. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments. Applicants seek to place the claims in more suitable condition for US prosecution.

The Applicants believe the claims are in condition for allowance, early passage to issuance is requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee associated with the submission of this response to Deposit Account No. 50-2183 (Ref. No. 21.1087).

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned patent attorney at 281.285.7325 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Date: Jan 21, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

  
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